



Legislative Report

August 13 2008

Bovine Tuberculosis Program Update

Provided by the Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Sportsmen and Livestock Discuss Shared Issues

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) invited MDA bovine TB eradication program staff and a cattle producer from the Modified Accredited Zone to speak at the August Board of Directors meeting held in Alpena on August 9, 2008. The presentation and subsequent discussions focused on how livestock producers and sportsmen can better collaborate to manage the deer herd as we pursue eradication of the disease. Sportsmen have identified lack of hunter access to privately held land as a significant barrier and livestock producers remain concerned about potential liability issues related to allowing individuals they do not know personally to hunt on their property. MUCC is working with Michigan Farm Bureau and other farm associations to reinvigorate efforts to address these issues.

Enforcement Action Needed In Final Stages of Iosco County Circle Testing

In July, one of MDA's bovine TB testing teams was accompanied by law enforcement officials from the Iosco County Sheriff's Department to conduct a whole herd test on one of the three herds that remain to be tested in the Potential High Risk Areas (areas outside of the MAZ in Iosco county) where two infected white-tailed deer were harvested last fall. Another herd finally scheduled testing for August 12 and activities are in motion to address the final herd.

Department staff worked with northern Lower Michigan opinion leaders in the cattle and dairy industries to improve enforcement policies for individuals refusing to comply with disease testing requirements.

USDA Emergency CCC Funding Update

The MDA submitted a \$1,538,000 work plan to cover previously agreed to expenses and expand bovine TB eradication efforts to USDA's Veterinary Services (USDA VS). The proposed cooperative agreement spans a two year period from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009.

Wildlife Risk*A*Syst Project for Bovine TB

The Alpena County Conservation District hired an experienced conservation technician to work on risk mitigation. The individual has a wealth of experience with both on-farm problem solving and the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Risk mitigation is still in the early stages of development. Staff have completed the initial versions of the risk assessment tool and reference book called *Risk*A*Syst*. Risk mitigation program policies and procedures will continue to be developed and updated as needed.

California Trace Investigation Update

A large Newaygo County dairy herd that purchased cattle from a bovine TB infected herd in California has been released from quarantine after whole herd testing (WHT) was completed with negative results. Many animals purchased from the California herd had been sold to other herds prior to the WHT. Investigators are tracing these animals forward to their final destinations to ensure all potentially exposed herds are tested.

The Michigan herd that sold animals to the infected California herd continues to remain under quarantine until a suspect animal is re-tested.

Results on the strain typing for the California TB positive herds are pending.

Technical Assistance Visit

Dr. Paul Livingstone, Bovine TB Technical Manager of New Zealand's Animal Health Board provided consultation to MDA staff from July 21 through the 25.

New Zealand's bovine TB eradication program is funded and directed by the stakeholders. The New Zealand government contributes funds for disease eradication efforts on government owned land.

The number of bovine TB infected livestock herds in New Zealand has decreased dramatically since the program became self sufficient. During his visit to Michigan, Dr. Livingstone met with livestock producers, field staff, government officials, livestock industry leaders, legislative staff, and the Bovine TB Eradication Advisory Committee.

Dr. Livingstone concurred with the DNR assessment that eradication of bovine TB from Michigan wildlife would not occur within the next 10 years. In light of the need to maintain a long-term perspective he recommended the following:

- Involve high level decision makers and those who fund the program in a review of the full range of options for addressing Michigan bovine TB issue including:
 - discontinuing the program
 - privatizing the program
 - and/or adjusting the program to what stakeholders are willing to support
- Develop multi-year strategic and operational plans, based on stakeholder and funding commitments that explicitly identify costs, benefits, and measurable/time bounded objectives.

- Develop an active research component to identify and fund program needs. Research projects should generate results that can be replicated under a variety of field conditions, and rapidly put to work in day-to-day operations of farms and programs.

TB Surveillance Testing

Zone	Annual Surveillance Requirement	Completed
Modified Accredited Zone	1,000 annual herd tests on individual farm anniversary dates	No herds are currently overdue for herd testing.
Modified Accredited Advanced Zone and Free Zone	Minimum of 500 higher risk herds	Update – 378 herds (81* in Iosco County and 165* in Shiawassee County)

*Updated based on the most current information.

Zonal Boundary Compliance

A total of 276 livestock vehicles were processed through the Agriculture Inspection Station north of the Mackinac Bridge in St. Ignace. MDA staff inspected 83 vehicles containing cattle and is investigating two cattle movement violations.

During the month of July, four vehicles were stopped by MSP Traffic Safety Officers while conducting surveillance of MAZ and MAAZ borders.

Compliance Cases:

18 cases were turned over to compliance during the month of July. Of these cases 17 are still pending investigation.

There were 217 cattle movement permits issued from MAZ premises in July.

Market Surveillance

There were 154 movement permits issued for cattle leaving the MAZ livestock market in July.

Bovine TB scientific meeting

The 2008 Bovine TB Scientific Meeting, sponsored by USDA, was held July 23-24 at the Henry Center in East Lansing. The audience included project partners from MDA, DNR, MDCH, MSU, and USDA. Stakeholder representation included Michigan Cattlemen's Association, MI Milk Producer's Association, the MI TB Advisory Committee, Dairy Farmers of America, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Farm Bureau, and MSU Extension.

The agenda consisted of program and research updates from all project partners (local, state, and federal), as well as regional updates from Minnesota and Canada. Keynote speakers from New Zealand and Australia provided critical insight into major program dynamics, and, during their time in Michigan, also worked closely with MDA and DNR to analyze potential new eradication strategies.

Slaughter Surveillance and Slaughter Verification

There were 15,577 head of Michigan cattle scanned at USDA Food Safety Inspection Service slaughter plants in July.

Education and Outreach

The annual bovine TB activities report was recently completed. It may be viewed at the following link:

The zonal signs have been posted by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Signs are posted at the following locations:

- U.S 31 between Elk Rapids and Acme on the Antrim County border
- U.S. 131 between Mancelona and Kalkaska on the Antrim County border
- M 72 between Grayling and Kalkaska, entering Crawford County
- M 18 near Roscommon, entering Crawford County
- M 33 between Rose City and Alger in Ogemaw County
- M 65 near Hale (the southern most boundary of the Huron national Forest)
- U.A 23 in Iosco County near Au Sable (the southern most boundary of the Huron national Forest)
- I75 before and after crossing the Mackinac Bridge.

A public service video asking producers to protect their feed and hunters not to bait deer was taped in July for distribution during the hunting season.

Bovine TB issues in the media:

The Minneapolis Star Tribune - Minneapolis- St. Paul, Minnesota

07/09/08 -- Almost 5,000 California cows to be slaughtered to halt spread of bovine tuberculosis

http://www.startribune.com/business/24168289.html?location_refer=Business

07/09/08 -- Doe hunt stirs controversy: Will extra season harm harvest?

http://www.mlive.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2008/07/doe_hunt_stirs_controversy_wil.html

Forbes.com

07/24/08 -- TB buyout program will remove 6,800 Minn. Cattle –

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/07/24/ap5251322.html>

The Star Tribune - Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

07/24/08 -- State gets 45 herd buyouts in fight against bovine TB -- A state official said Thursday that a "significant step toward eradicating bovine TB from northwest Minnesota" has been taken.

http://www.startribune.com/local/25858289.html?location_refer=Local%20+%20Metro